LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1 (currently amended): A communication interface for a gaming machine comprising:

(a) a main communication board **having** ~~comprising;~~

at least one **primary** power connection adapted to supply power to the main communication board, ~~and~~

at least one **secondary power connection adapted to supply power to at least one** other component connected to the main communication board, **wherein said at least one secondary power connection is adapted to have power supplied therethrough switched off while power is maintained through said at least one primary power connection,**

a communication connection configured to communicate with a master gaming controller of the gaming machine, and

at least one standard receptor slot for securing **said** at least one other component to the main communication board, ~~wherein the main communication board is located on either a first communication path between the master gaming controller and a gaming device, a second communication path providing a direct link from the master gaming controller to an outside network, or both~~; and

(b) a daughter board plugged into ~~the~~ **said standard** receptor slot of the main communication board and configured to receive power from the main communication board, said daughter board adapted to utilize a first communication format for allowing the gaming machine to communicate **to said daughter board** ~~, said daughter board comprising conversion circuitry for converting signals between the first communication format and a second communication format~~.

2 (currently amended): The communication interface of claim 1, wherein the daughter board provides a communication format allowing the master gaming controller to communicate with a gaming ~~machine~~ device.

3 (currently amended): The communication interface of claim 2, wherein the gaming ~~machine~~ device is a magnetic card reader, a display screen, a key pad, a network device or a display sign.

4 (original): The communication interface of claim 1, wherein the daughter board provides a communication format allowing the master gaming controller to communicate with a gaming machine network.

5 (original): The communication interface of claim 4, wherein the gaming machine network is a casino area network or a wide area progressive network.

6 (original): The communication interface of claim 1, wherein the communication format is selected from the group consisting of RS-422/485, Fiber Optic, RS-232, DCS Current Loop, Link Progressive Current Loop and USB.

7 (original): The communication interface of claim 1, wherein the communication connection between the main communication board and the master gaming controller is configured for an RS-232 communication format or a USB communication format.

8 (original): The communication interface of claim 1, wherein the standard receptor slot is configured to accept a 15 pin connector.

9 (original): The communication interface of claim 1, wherein the standard receptor slot is configured to accept a connector with one or more ground pins and one or more power pins wherein the ground pins are longer than the power pins on the connector.

10 (currently amended): The communication interface of claim 1, wherein the standard receptor **slot** is configured to supply power and a communication signal to the daughter board when the daughter board is plugged into the standard receptor slot.

11 (currently amended): The communication interface of claim 1, wherein the **primary** power connection is configured to receive power from a substantially non-varying power source.

12 (currently amended): The communication interface of claim 1, ~~further comprising a second power connection~~ wherein the secondary power connection is configured to receive power from a power source which is shut off by a switch within the gaming machine.

13 (original): The communication interface of claim 1, wherein the gaming machine is a traditional slot game, a video slot game, a video poker game, keno game, or a lottery game.

14-28 (canceled)

29 (currently amended): In a gaming machine having a master gaming controller and a main communication board allowing communication via various communications formats,

a method of communicating with a gaming machine via multiple communication formats, the method comprising:

providing a first daughter board in a first standard receptor slot of the main communication board, which first daughter board converts signals in a first communications format from the master gaming controller to signals in a second communications format for transmission;

providing at least one primary power connection adapted to supply power to the main communication board;

providing at least one secondary power connection adapted to supply power from the main communication board to said first daughter board;

switching off power through said secondary power connection while power is maintained through said primary power connection; and

replacing the first daughter board with a second daughter board in the first standard receptor slot of the main communication board, which second daughter board converts signals in a first communications format from the master gaming controller to signals in a communications format, other than the first communication format, for transmission.

30 (currently amended): In a gaming machine having a master gaming controller and a main communication board allowing communication via various communications formats, a method of communicating with a ~~gaming machine network and with a~~ **plurality of** gaming devices ~~via multiple communication formats~~, the method comprising:

providing a first daughter board in a first standard receptor slot of the main communication board, which first daughter board converts signals in a first communications format from the master gaming controller to signals in a second communications format for transmission to ~~the~~ **a first** gaming ~~machine~~ device;

providing power from said main communication board to said first daughter board via a first power connection;

providing a second daughter board in a second standard receptor slot of the main communication board, which second daughter board converts signals in a first communications format from the master gaming controller to signals in a third communications format for transmission to **a second gaming device** ~~**the gaming machine network**~~;

providing power from said main communication board to said second daughter board via a second power connection;

switching off power through said first power connection while power is maintained through said second power connection; and

replacing the first daughter board with a third daughter board in the first standard receptor slot of the main communication board ~~**while the second daughter board converts signals in a first communications format from the master gaming controller to signals in a third communications format for transmission to the gaming machine network.**~~

31 (canceled)

32 (original): The method of claim 30, wherein the third communication format is a fiber optic communication standard.

33 (original): The method of claim 30, wherein the first communication format is an RS-232 communication standard.

34 (currently amended): The method of claim 30, wherein the gaming ~~machine~~ device is selected from a group consisting of a magnetic card reader, a display screen, a key pad, a network device or a display sign.

35 (original): The method of claim 30, wherein the second communication format is selected from the group consisting of RS-422/485, Fiber Optic, RS-232, DCS Current Loop, Link Progressive Current Loop and USB.

36 (new): The method of claim 30, wherein communications are made with a gaming machine network having at least one additional gaming machine.

37 (new): The method of claim 36, wherein the gaming machine network is a casino area network or a wide area progressive network.

38 (new): The method of claim 36, wherein said second gaming device is located on said gaming machine network.

39 (new): The method of claim 36, further comprising the step of:

communicating a signal to a remote gaming device on said gaming machine network when money is accepted by the gaming machine, said remote gaming device being adapted to tally the amount of money accepted by a plurality of gaming machines in the gaming machine network.

40 (new): The method of claim 36, wherein the gaming machine network contains a plurality of gaming machines connected as part of a daisy chain, said daisy chain comprising a communication loop.

41 (new): The method of claim 40, wherein a plurality of gaming machines within said daisy chain each echoes upstream communication along the communication loop whether or not the power is on to a particular gaming machine in the daisy chain.

42 (new): The method of claim 40, wherein said daisy chain comprises a master communication device that receives all communications sent on the communication loop, including its own communications.

43 (new): The method of claim 40, wherein at least one of said daughter boards is configured to receive a disable communication signal using an echo jumper.

44 (new): The communication interface of claim 1, wherein said gaming machine is adapted to communicate a signal across said communication interface to a remote gaming device on a gaming machine network when money is accepted by the gaming machine, said remote gaming device being adapted to tally the amount of money accepted by one or more gaming machines in the gaming machine network.

45 (new): The communication interface of claim 1, wherein said gaming machine is adapted to communicate a signal across said communication interface to a gaming machine network having at least one additional gaming machine, said gaming machine network

containing a plurality of gaming machines connected as part of a daisy chain, said daisy chain comprising a communication loop.

46 (new): The communication interface of claim 45, wherein a plurality of gaming machines within said daisy chain each echoes upstream communication along the communication loop whether or not the power is on to a particular gaming machine in the daisy chain.

47 (new): The communication interface of claim 45, wherein said daisy chain comprises a master communication device that receives all communications sent on the communication loop, including its own communications.

48 (new): The communication interface of claim 45, wherein at least one of said daughter boards is configured to receive a disable communication signal using an echo jumper.

49 (new): In a gaming machine having a master gaming controller and at least one other gaming device, a method of operating said gaming machine comprising:

providing a main communication board adapted to facilitate communication via various communications formats, said main communication board having a plurality of standard receptor slots;

providing power to said main communication board via a first power connection;

providing a first daughter board in a first standard receptor slot of said main communication board, said first daughter board adapted to convert signals sent from the master gaming controller in a first communications format to signals in a second

communications format for transmission to said other gaming device or along a gaming machine network;

providing power to said first daughter board via a second power connection;

switching off power through said first power connection to said main communication board; and

maintaining power to said first daughter board via said second power connection during said step of switching off power through said first power connection to said main communication board.

50 (new): The method of claim 49, further including the steps of:

providing a second daughter board in a second standard receptor slot of the main communication board, said second daughter board adapted to convert signals sent from the master gaming controller to signals in a third communications format for transmission to said other gaming device, another gaming device, or along a gaming machine network;

providing power to said second daughter board via a third power connection;

switching off power through said second power connection to said first daughter board;

maintaining power to said second daughter board via said third power connection during said step of switching off power through said second power connection to said first daughter board; and

replacing said first daughter board with a third daughter board in said first standard receptor slot of the main communication board.